

CH-365

1878-1950

Shiloh Community Methodist Church

Newburg

Private

The current church property encompasses one historic building, the early 20th century Tolson House, and four historic sites including a former 1885 chapel with an attached rectory, an 1878 two-room schoolhouse, and an 1895 parsonage. The church property is located in the village of Shiloh, a rural African-American community in southern Charles County that was established during or after the Civil War. Together, these resources reflect the significance of the church in the development of African-American communities during the late 19th and early 20th century.

The history of the Shiloh Community Church property can be officially traced through land records to 1878 when John T. Dutton and Josephine A. Dutton, siblings, deeded one acre from part of the Poppleton Hill farm for the construction of a schoolhouse. In 1885, John and his wife Alice sold to the trustees of Shiloh Church one acre near the "colored schoolhouse" for \$23.13. Five years later Perrylee Matthews, a Shiloh minister, purchased 3/4 acre from John T. Dutton adjoining the Shiloh Church property on the south side.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-365

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Shiloh Community United Methodist Church Property

other

2. Location

street and number 12695 Shiloh Church Road not for publication

city, town Newburg ☒ vicinity

county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Shiloh Community Methodist Church

street and number 12695 Shiloh Church Road telephone unknown

city, town Newburg state MD zip code 20664-2520

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 80 grid 14

city, town La Plata liber 8 folio 397

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>4</u> <u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u> </u> <u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u> </u> <u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-365

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The current church property encompasses a historic buildings and four historic sites. The structure consists of a circa 1920 foursquare dwelling that stands to the north of the current 1965 chapel. Historic sites include a former 1885 chapel and an attached rectory, an 1878 two-room schoolhouse, and an 1895 parsonage. The church is located in the village of Shiloh, on Shiloh Church Road in the vicinity of Newburg. Shiloh is a rural African-American community that was established by the end of the Civil War in the Cobb Neck peninsula of southern Charles County.

1920 DWELLING

The Tolson House is a large two-story frame foursquare dwelling standing near the road on the northwest side of Shiloh Church Road. According to local residents the building was constructed by local carpenter George Henry Shade. The dwelling has a hipped composition shingle roof with a single hipped dormer on the front elevation and a hipped roof porch extending the front and southwestern elevation, facing the church. The porch is supported on square wood and poured concrete columns. Asbestos shingles over wood siding cover the frame and the cornice is boxed. All windows are original 2/2 lights with square-edged wood surrounds.

The front elevation includes two fixed 6-light windows in the dormer above three symmetrical windows. The porch shelters the first floor consisting of a centered window and two pair of 2/2 windows. The southwest elevation includes two second-story windows in the second-story above two windows and a door on the first floor. The rear elevation includes three symmetrical second-story windows and three windows and a door on the first floor. The northeast elevation has two second-story windows above two windows and a door found on the first floor. The exterior as well as the interior has 5-panel wood doors characteristic of the early 20th century.

The double-pile structure includes four rooms on the first floor and four rooms above with a centered hall/stair passage. A one-story porch extends the width of the facade. Although unrestored, the dwelling retains a very high degree of integrity with a good deal of historic material intact.

1965 CHURCH & ANNEX

The current church consists of a concrete block and brick structure built by James A. Wood & Son, Brandywine, MD. These concrete block annex stands to the north of the church site on the former 1904 annex site. It is connected to the church by a breezeway.

1904 RECTORY (SITE)

This is believed to have been a prominent Gothic Revival addition extending from the north elevation. This wing had center gable ornamenting the front elevation.

c. 1895 PARSONAGE (SITE)

The parsonage was built during the tenure of Rev. R.H. Alexander (1891-1896) and was destroyed by fire in 1956. The parsonage stood behind the church in an area that is currently wooded. A road led behind the property to an area identified in a 1909 plat of Elmwood as a camp ground, presumably used for religious camp meetings. This is a different site from the current cemetery to the north, also used as a religious campground according to oral tradition.

1885 CHURCH (SITE)

According to photographs, the church was typical of rural vernacular chapels built throughout Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. Four bays long and three wide, the church had characteristic lancet windows. The belfry was added 1911-1913 consisting of a centered double-leaf doorway with a 3-part lancet-shaped transom and lancet windows above lighting the belltower. The bell is housed behind wood louvered vents and is sheltered by a pyramidal roof capped with a cross pinnacle.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory N CH-365

Name Shiloh Community United Methodist Church Property
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Stained glass windows and Delco lighting were installed in 1929-32. This church was demolished in 1956 to build the current structure. The bell was preserved and is housed in a separate structure near the former school site.

SHILOH SCHOOL (SITE)

The Shiloh Schoolhouse was a two-room frame structure. Aside from two classrooms the building included a foyer/cloakroom and small kitchen. The structure was built in 1878 when John T. Dutton deeded one acre to the County school board. The building was in use until 1951 after which it was used as a recreation center and dining room. This building was destroyed by fire in 1964.

Also located on the church property is a structure that houses a church bell which came from the 1885 church building.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-365

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> industry
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
		<input type="checkbox"/> law
		<input type="checkbox"/> literature
		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry
		<input type="checkbox"/> military
		<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
		<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
		<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion
		<input type="checkbox"/> science
		<input type="checkbox"/> social history
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1878-1956	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	1878; 1885;		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Shiloh Community United Methodist Church is significant as an example of the evolution of an African American church from the third quarter of the 19th century to the mid-20th century in rural Charles County. Methodism was spread to Southern Maryland via traveling evangelical preachers who visited private homes and staged impromptu revival meetings. There are few surviving records of early Methodist activities in Charles County. However, it is known that from approximately 1785 throughout the 19th century itinerant apostles traveled the countryside converting residents and preaching at meetings. As the number of believers grew, small groups of converts began to organize into what were called Methodist societies. Some of the earliest of these societies in Charles and St. Mary's counties were located at Bethel (Budds Creek), Mechanicsville, New Town (near La Plata), Pisgah, Shiloh and Chicamuxen.

The first African American congregations were formed around the end of the Civil War. Shiloh near Newburg, Jordan Chapel, later Alexander or Alexandria at Chicamuxen, and Price's Chapel, later Metropolitan. Around the 1880's the churches became affiliated with the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Charles Circuit. Until the 1890's they shared many early preachers including Rev. Charles Daniel Wheeler, R.H. Alexander.

According to local church history, Shiloh was established during the Civil War, when in 1863, local African-Americans organized a congregation. For the first years, church services were held in private homes. Local white citizens are said to have given a church building to the congregation. The church quickly became a center for marriages, and served as a public school taught by volunteer teachers. It is believed that this original church site stood near the current Shiloh Church cemetery, (CH-364), which stands to the north of the current church site. According to oral tradition, camp meetings were also held at this site. Ministers associated with the church at this time were Rev. Wainwright who was replaced with the first black pastor, Rev. William H. Dyson.

Meanwhile, the small community of Shiloh continued to grow. In 1878, the John T. Dutton and Josephine A. Dutton family deeded one acre from part of Poppleton Hill for the construction of a schoolhouse. The building consisted of two classrooms, an entrance hall or cloakroom and a small kitchen. In 1951, as a result of consolidation, the school was closed and acquired by the church for use as a dining room and recreation center.

In 1890, Perrylee Matthews purchased 3/4 acres from John T. Dutton which adjoins the Shiloh Church property on the south side, and the land of PAL Contee on the west, the land of John T. Dutton on the north, and the county road on the east. By 1901, Perrylee Matthews, was deceased and the property conveyed to Ruth C. Tolson. At that time Matthews owed 86 dollars toward the purchase price. The deed references buildings thereupon. In 1953, Tolson conveyed the property to the trustees of Shiloh Church providing she retain a life estate.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-365

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property approx 3

Acreage of historical setting approx 3

Quadrangle name Popes Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The site includes approximately five acres on the northwest side of Shiloh Church Road.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 6/12/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600



CH-365 Charles County, MD
Name: SHILOH CHURCH
Location: NEWBURG VIC.
Quad: POPES CREEK



CH-305

Shiloh Community Methodist Church

Newburg, MD

C. HARDY

9/2003

MD SAPO

TILSON HOUSE, LOOKING N

10P4



CA-365

Shiloh Community Methodist Ch

Nunburg, Md

A. Hurdin

9/2003

MD SHIP

Tolson House, LOOKING E

20FY



CH-365

Shiloh Community Methodist
Newburg, MD

C. HARDY

9/2003

MD SHPO

3x4



CH-365

Shiloh Community Methodist Ch

Newburg, Md.

C. HARDY

9/2003

MD SHPO

4044

Charles - 365
Shiloh Methodist Church-Site Two
Shiloh Church Road
Newburg, MD 20664

1863, 1881, 1965

Access:Public

The present Shiloh Methodist Church stands 35' from the west side of Shiloh Church Road near Newburg in southeastern Charles County. The building was erected in 1965. This congregation is the oldest black Methodist body in Charles County (ca. 1861). It was founded by slaves and freedmen before the termination of the Civil War. Shiloh is a black community.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Shiloh Methodist Church - Site Two

AND/OR COMMON

Shiloh Community Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Shiloh Church Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Newburg

VICINITY OF

Shiloh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROCESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees, Shiloh Community Methodist Church

C/O Rev. Walter H. Sewell

Telephone #: 259-2530

STREET & NUMBER

Rt.1, Box 65

CITY, TOWN

Newburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD, 20664

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Court House

Liber #: 36

Folio #: 123

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☒ MOVED

DATE 1965

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Shiloh Methodist Church stands 35' from the west side of Shiloh Church Rd. near Newburg in the community of Shiloh. The church faces east. It is built of cinder block and fronted with brick. I have attached photographs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1863-1881-1965

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present church was built in 1965.

This congregation is the oldest black Methodist body in Charles County. It was founded by slaves and freedmen before the termination of the Civil War. Shiloh is a black community near the village of Newburg in extreme southeast Charles County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American
History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

2692893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CH-365

MORGANTOWN QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND—VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 WICOMICO 15' QUADRANGLE

LY

URG (MD.3) 1.2 MI

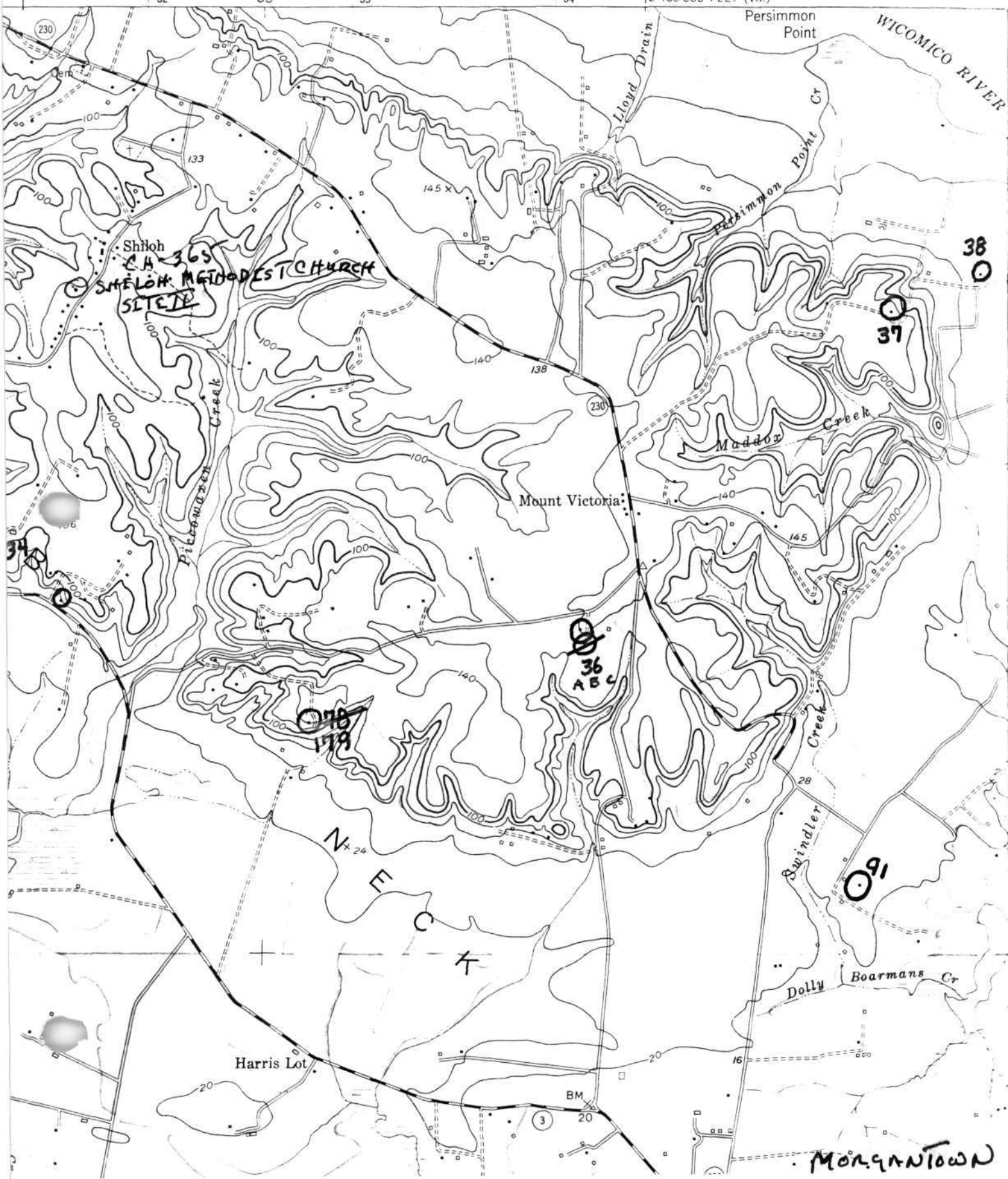
332

55'

333

334

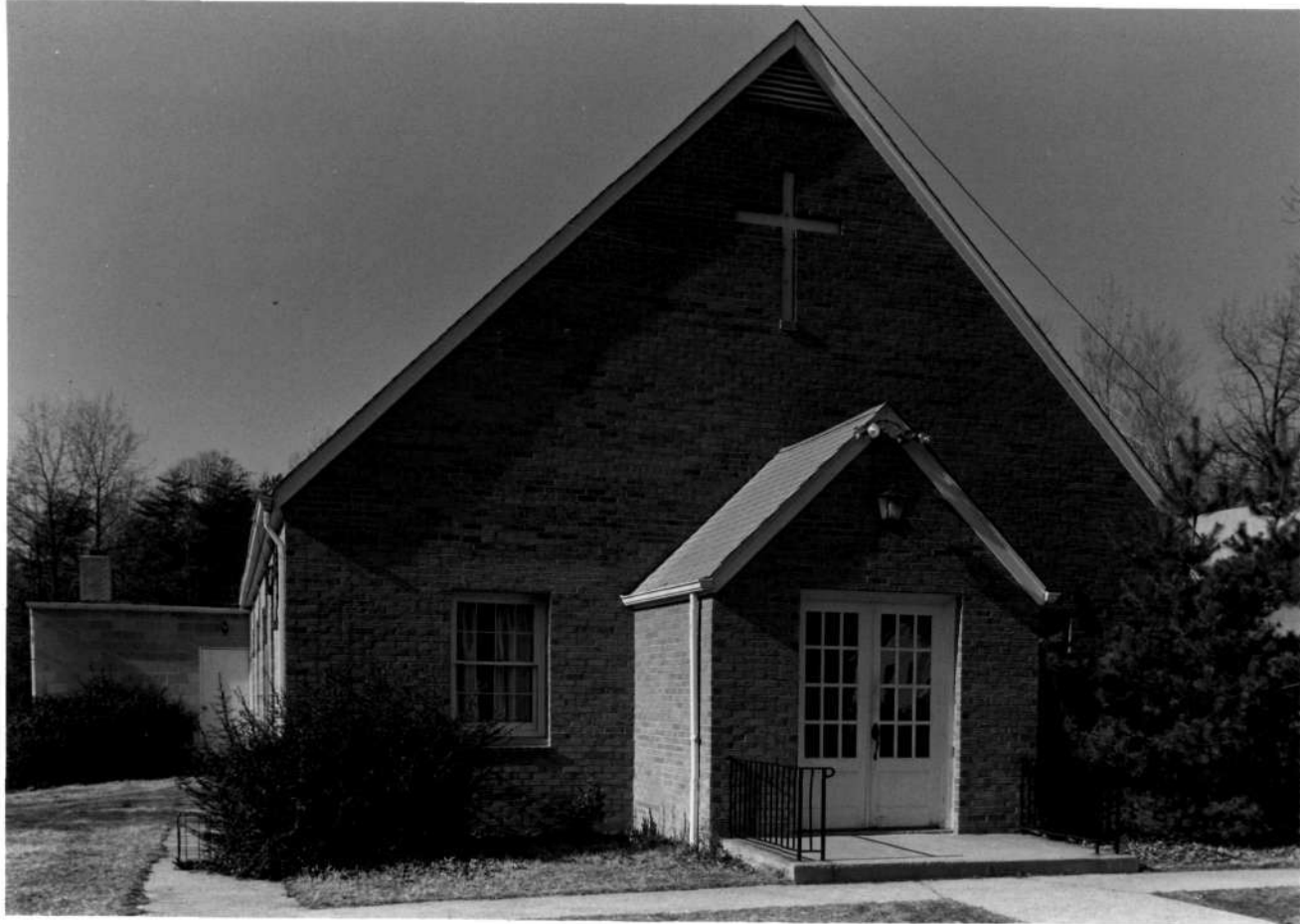
12 460 000 FEET (VA.)





Shiloh Methodist Church, Site #2 CH-365
Newburg, Charles County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Northeast elevation
2/81



Shiloh Methodist Church, Site #2
Newburg, Charles County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

CH-365

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation
2/81